

# THE LUBBOCK AVALANCHE

VOLUME XX

LUBBOCK, LUBBOCK COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1919

NUMBER 3

## Reminiscence of Pioneer Days

By Hampton Steele

(From Groesbeck Journal.)

The following communication was written for The Journal by the eldest son of the last survivor of the battle of San Jacinto.

"Something over 80 years ago, a little band of people, wanted their way through the forests and jungles of Texas until they landed at what is now known as Ft. Parker, situated about 2 miles from Groesbeck. There they stopped and built cabins and a stockade to protect them from the Indians. This was sometime in the year 1835. The following spring they broke land and planted corn to supply their wants.

"Things were moving along nicely and they were happy and contented in their new home, but on the 13th day of May, 1836, a beautiful spring day, the sun was shining brightly, the flowers were in bloom, the birds were flitting from tree to tree singing their songs, the buffaloes were browsing around some lone trees on the vast expanse of the prairie, the wild deer were skipping from glade to glade and all nature was smiling. The children were playing around their mother's feet and every one seemed to be happy. Perhaps the mother would look into the face of her child and think of the Indians and her cheek would blanch, there would be a little heartache, and a silent prayer, that the Indians would pass them by. Little did they think that before the sun went down on that day, the tragedy of their lives would be played. There was a dark line coming from the west toward the fort. They were moving slowly in single file, with their war paint on. They stopped about two yards from the fort and were apparently holding a council. All the men from the fort were away at work with the exception of old man Parker. He decided to go down and see what the Indians wanted. He went down and it was but a few moments until they had killed and scalped him. Then they made for the fort. The women and children sought safety in flight. Many of them were killed and many captured. Among the number captured were Mrs. Plummer, her baby and a boy about 8 years old and Mrs. Parker and two children, a boy and a girl was known as Synthann, who was re-captured by Sal Pop in a fight with the Indians years afterwards.

"Now, my kind readers, those were the first white settlers in this country. They were all broken up and what they had built and planted was destroyed by the Indians.

"I dare say that if the question was asked the present generation not one could tell who were the next settlers who came to this country. I was one of them, and I shall attempt to tell about them. Reader, if you had been a spectator about 74 years ago you would have seen a wagon one morning about 100 miles southeast of here. This was in November, 1844. That wagon was not one of the striped bed and yellow wheel type, but was one of the pioneer wagons which the people used in that day. The type of wagon has passed out of use.

"That morning you would have observed a small like man standing beside that wagon. You would have also seen a blue eyed woman and three little boys, the eldest about 5 years, the next about 3 and the youngest about 1. They seemed to be getting ready to make a journey. There was no furniture to load into that wagon such as bedsteads, dressers and the like. The bedstead in that cabin was

a fixture to the house. It was one of the old Texas bedsteads made with one post and two poles which were joined together by means of an iron hole and to the wall by means of two other holes. The chairs consisted of a block of wood, smooth on one side and supported by three legs and known as the old Texas stool which we used for chairs. So there was no furniture to go in that wagon with the possible exception of a very crude piece of furniture, a cradle, which was made for the writer. I wish I had that cradle to show to the present generation.

"At last everything was loaded into the wagon and the oxen were brought up. The mother and the three little boys climbed into the wagon and the start was made toward the north, some more pioneers blazing the way for civilization. The writer was but 5 years at this time and does not remember a great deal of what happened on the journey with the exception of one thing, which made a lasting impression on his mind. We had probably been on the road two or three days when I got tired of riding and would get out and throw rocks at the birds. One evening I was walking and had gotten about 50 yards behind the wagon, it was nearly camping time and we had just come down a long slanting hill. I looked up and saw two people on top of the hill. My father yelled at me to look at the Indians. One look backward and I made for the wagon yelling, 'I heard my father say afterwards that he didn't know but that they were Indians at the time. It developed later that it was two negroes who were looking for some stray hogs. Next morning everything was alright, and we moved on. We came up the side of the Navasota river until we struck the old San Antonio road, when we crossed over to the west side of the river at what was then called Old Franklin. Father said there was a man living at the crossing then by the name of Franklin, who ran a little mill for grinding corn and father traded him some yearlings for some corn which he had to return far after we had settled. The distance was about 50 miles, a pretty good start to mill. But the meal did us for a long time. The greatest obstacle which confronted the early settlers was getting meal and salt. We had plenty of meat, for on the prairie there were plenty of deer and buffaloes and in the woods there were wild turkey and other kinds of game. We settled just across Frost creek of rather in the fork of Frost creek and Rocky creek. I think the place is now known as the Barrow place.

"Now as the other settlers, Father and mother and there were just 13 people here at this time. Among the number were: L. A. Stroud who first settled at Bur oak Springs on the Navasota river not far from Rocky crossing; Elisha Anglin, who first settled on the spring branch about 2 miles from where Groesbeck is now, Moses Anglin settled over on Summer's creek; William Anglin settled out on the hill just north of Groesbeck; John Anglin settled near where Groesbeck now is, I think his cabin stood about where the brick yard is now and perhaps some of the old house is still there; William Burns settled across Frost creek to the south of Groesbeck about a half mile above where the railroad crosses the creek; Forest Phifer settled down

across Rocky creek at a point now known as Forest Chapel; Samuel Nelson settled on the south side of Frost creek, the old place has been torn down for many years, it is now known as the Stockton place. There first and second wife and 2 children is a grave yard here where Nelson's are buried; Silas Bates built a cabin near where the old Bates spring is; John D. Smith settled at what is now known as Smith's point, about one mile north-west of old Louisville; Smith died there in 1874 and his wife died about a year later. They left 4 little girls who were taken to Louisiana. In after years I married the youngest of the 4. A man named Baker settled on the east end of Horn Hill. He was the farthest out of the settlement at that time. The place is now known as the old Bennett place. This completes the settlers who were here that year. The next year more people came, the Falkenherr's, Clinton Owens who settled at old Springfield, J. R. Henry came about January 1846 and Hesabla Jackson, the grandfather of W. J. Jackson settled on the head of Wagon Wheel branch about the first of July 1846 and the Pendergrast's settled at old Springfield. Mich Roberts, A. P. Smith, and J. R. Henry all settled at old Springfield. J. R. Henry was the first merchant to begin business at old Springfield, starting his business in 1846. This same year the county was organized. Moses Anglin was county judge, Clinton Owens was county clerk and a man by the name of Whitaker was sheriff. Everything was moving nicely.

"Then the Texas star, brightest star of the west, was added to the stars of the Union which brought about a war with Mexico. There were not many people here at that time and being on the frontier we were subject to the raids of Indians at any time but notwithstanding many of the young men volunteered and went to Mexico. Those whom I remember to have gone were: Eli Davis, John Davis, H. P. Banks, L. L. Godfrey, William Burns and a man named Hicks. They all went through the war and returned safely. They are all dead now. Godfrey came to Texas with W. E. Biggs.

"I shall now try to give you some sketches along other lines. You know that there are certain things that happen in a boy's life which make an impression on him that he never forgets. The next spring after we moved here there was a large herd of buffaloes came down Frost creek on the south side of the creek. They had gotten about opposite where the town of Groesbeck now stands about a mile above where we lived when my father discovered them. He and Uncle Marion Powell and H. P. Banks got after them and the fun began. My father had a good Spanish horse at that time so he took his rope with him and the other two men had the dogs and the guns. Father succeeded in roping one and they had a time. He finally landed him down near the house. Mr. Powell and Mr. Banks crippled one with the gun. The dogs took after it, and it made for our cabin. Around and around the house it went. Now, friends, you can guess where those three little boys were when all this fun was going on, right up in the middle of the bed with the door shut. I can see that buffalo going around the house as plain as if it were yesterday. The fun ended when they succeeded in killing the buffalo.

The one father had roped was tied to a tree and they killed him too. This gave us plenty of meat for awhile. "In the spring of 1846 there was an old man by the name of Ward came along and wanted to teach

school, so the people, what few there were, employed him. He taught school in a little cedar log house close to the old Bates springs. I went to that school, the first school that was taught in the county. All the children who went to that school with me are dead. Out of the 14 families who were here in 1844 brother Rada and I are the only ones living in the county.

"The little boys and girls who were born under the Lone Star and who went with their parents to the frontier to blaze the way for civilization that we now enjoy are all old now. They did their part. As for myself I grew to manhood here and in accordance with the injunction of God to go forth multiply and replenish the earth, I married and have reared 17 children in Limestone county. 14 of these are still living. I have 57 grand children and 34 great grand children. I have one great grand son in the army now in France. My children are scattered over Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. There has been no race suicide in my family of about 100 living souls. I have tried to be a good citizen. I helped to build good roads and school houses and always paid my taxes as long as I had any property to pay on.

"The sad part of life comes in old age when we become crippled and have to live on the charities of our children. It seems to me that as much as the pioneers have done for Texas that the great State might scatter a few flowers along the path of those ready old people. Oh! Civilization, Civilization, where art thou? Does the survival of the fittest still prevail?

Yours respectfully,  
Hampton Steele.

Thorn, Texas, eldest son of the last survivor of the battle of San Jacinto.

## SOME NEWS ITEMS FROM THE ACUFF COMMUNITY

July 15.—Bro. Metcalfe rendered an excellent discourse Sunday morning at Acuff. It will be his last appointment for awhile, as he is going to conduct meetings at other places.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Davis and mother spent Saturday and Sunday in Boasting Springs, visiting Mrs. Jink Penney.

Miss Ross returned to San Antonio Sunday after spending quite a visit with homefolks and friends, she will resume her position there.

Messrs. and Mesdames J. M. Boyd and E. O. Egitt attended church services at Malon Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McClung visited with Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Davis Sunday.

Mr. C. C. Davis has a severe case of tonsillitis.

Jesse Boyd left Monday morning for Comanche County, to visit friends and relatives for awhile.

Miss Gladys Garrison is visiting Mrs. L. S. Ewert this week, she is of Phoenix, Ariz.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Ewert and Miss Gladys Garrison visited Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rush Sunday.

Mr. J. M. Boyd is attending court this week.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Selwyn visited with Mr. and Mrs. D. Pounds Sunday. The children are staying out with Mrs. Pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Ross of Idalon, and her brother-in-law, of Spur, attended church at Acuff Sunday.

R. W. Pitman, of Tyrone, N. M., is here this week visiting with acquaintances and attending to business interests. Mr. Pitman before going to Tyrone, was in the Dry Goods business in Seminole and also had other holdings. During the years of the drought on the plains, sold his business and moved to Mexico. He is here now looking after his land holdings and contemplating moving back to the plains.

Dr. W. L. Baugh and family returned the first of the week, from a few weeks vacation, spent in New Mexico and Arizona. The trip was made overland in their car.

Read the date on the label. It tells when your subscription expires!

## SOCIETY NOTES

Mrs. A. B. Conley Jr., and daughter, Miss Marion, left Wednesday for an extended visit in Kansas City, St. Louis. Before returning they will visit Mrs. Conley's old home in Kentucky.

Miss Hudson, of Seagraves, is visiting Mrs. Henry Lowery.

Miss Bessie Stringer is visiting her brother in Shallowater this week.

Mrs. J. E. Garrison and children, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sims, of Dallas, have gone to Grady, N. M., for a visit with relatives.

The ladies quartette at the Cumberland tabernacle, are charming the audiences with their beautiful songs. Don't fail to hear them.

Mrs. K. Carter returned Tuesday from a visit to Abilene with her sister, Mrs. Blaine. She was accompanied home by her mother, Mrs. Dean, and sister, Mrs. Davis, of Weatherford, who will visit here for a few days. They will return to Weatherford via Amarillo.

Mr. Horace Hay, who sings for Dr. Macintosh, is visiting at the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Griswold.

Mr. Harry Miller from Ralls, visited here Sunday.

J. C. Duff Jr., has returned from Plainview, where he visited several days.

Mr. Luther Collet returned Monday from Abilene, where he has been visiting at home.

Miss Neva Strickland returned Monday to her home in Tahoka, after a several days pleasant visit here.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Hooker who have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Burris, have returned to their home in Hanford, Calif., where Mr. Hooker will again engage in the fruit growing business.

Mrs. J. W. Hooker and sister, Mrs. Kate McCombs, of Cedar Hill, Texas, are visiting Mrs. Will McCombs on her ranch near Kenna, N. M.

Miss Thelma Jones, of Kenna, N. M., was the guest last week of Misses Ann and Alta Burris.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sims of Dallas, are visiting relatives in the city.

Mrs. Doyle Garrison and daughter of Pecos, are the guests of Mrs. Garrison's sister, Mrs. W. E. McClendon.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon O'Neal and children of Jacksonville, are visiting relatives and friends in the city.

Messdames G. H. Montgomery and Elwin Wheelock have returned from an extended visit in Merkel, Rising Star and Brownwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hooker and Jeff Jr., of Cotton Place, Texas, are visiting their mother, Mrs. J. W. Hooker. Mr. Hooker is a banker in that promising new town.

Mrs. J. F. Livingston of Rising Star, is the guest of Mrs. G. H. Montgomery.

Miss Millie M. Halsey, County Home Demonstration Agent, went to Dickens Friday to attend the rally held by the Dickens County boys and girls clubs. Miss Ella Forrest, of Slaton, is Home Demonstration Agent of Dickens County, and is doing a splendid work.

Miss Halsey also visited Miss Mabelle Craddock, who was the Emergency assistant in the Lubbock county home demonstration work during May and June.

Miss Madge Baker, of Austin, is the charming guest of Miss Lois Duff. Miss Baker is the daughter of State Treasurer Mr. John W. Baker.

Miss Mabel Hundley who has been the guest of Miss Lena V. Griswold has returned to her home in Waco.

W. K. (Dub) Dickinson Jr., the new proprietor of the Elk Barber shop has an announcement of this week that we respectfully call your attention to.

Miss Evelyn McNeil, sister of Mrs. S. H. Johnson, left Monday morning for Gray City, Mich., where she will visit with homefolks a few months.

T. C. Calley, manager of the McAdams Lumber Company of Shallowater is in town this week, serving as a juror.

## DEATHS.

R. H. Peeler—Son of J. D. Peeler, born March the 15th, 1917, died here following a sickness of about two weeks, July the 15th, 1919. Funeral services were held here today, conducted by Rev. A. A. Collins and interment made in the Lubbock Cemetery.

Dorothy June Barlow—Born in Wisconsin June the 15th, 1904, died in a local sanitarium July the 13th, 1919. The deceased parents' live near Ralls, having made that their home for about three years, going there from Wisconsin. The body was carried to Ralls Tuesday where funeral services were held and then brought back to Lubbock, where the body will be kept at the Rix morgue until the parents dispose of their property. They will then return to Wisconsin, and ship the body of the girl to that State for interment.

## Lindsey

Friday, July 18th  
J. WARREN KERRIGAN  
—in—

"3-X Gordon"

Saturday 19th  
William Fox Presents

"Every Mothers Son"

Also a Good Comedy.  
Monday  
Wallace Reed in

"Too Many Millions"

Tuesday  
George Walsh in

"I'll Say So"

Wednesday  
Dorothy Gish in

"Battling Jane"

Thursday  
Viola Dana in

"False Evidence"

Friday and Saturday 25-26  
Pants Won the War. Wear  
Pants

"Oh You Women"

Always a Good Show—  
Sometimes a Great One.

At The

## Lindsey

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May give you lockjaw. Before your jaws get locked we would like to have you call and buy lumber that is free of splinters. Best materials, estimates and prices.

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The Store of Quality, Service and Price.  
Telephones 309 and 310.

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We pay you the highest price for your chickens, butter and eggs. It will pay you to see us when you have anything to offer for sale, or when you are in the market to buy groceries. Yours for fair dealing.

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